

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 04413 021347Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3701

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4413

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID EAGR ETRD

SUBJECT: FAHMY ON US WHEAT ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 102569

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I GAVE HIM THE INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL. I NOTED WHEAT FLOUR PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION WAS ISSUED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF MY MESSAGE (CAIRO 4291) AND ON THE UNDERSTANDING GOE APPROVED.HE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT CANCELLATION OF WHEAT FLOUR PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION WOULD COMPLICATE DOMESTIC CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS AND, AS I HAD TOLD HIM EARLIER, COULD ENDANGER FUTURE PL 480 WHEAT LEVELS TO EGYPT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE WE CONSIDER IT UNSIE TO CANCEL THE WHEAT FLOUR PORTION, WE WOULD BE WILLING, IF FAHMY DESIRES,TO ADD 50,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO EGYPT'S PROGRAM, BRINGING TOTAL TO 550,000 TONS OF WHEAT AND 72,000 TONS OF WHEAT FLOUR.

2. FAHMY ASKED THAT I EXPRESS HIS DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. HE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRYING TO CANCEL THE WHEAT FLOUR. HE IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFER TO ADD 50,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO EGYPT'S PROGRAM AND WELCOMES THIS.

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3. FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH GOE AND USG, HE WOULD LIKE TO GET SOME POLITICAL IMPACT MILEAGE OUT OF THIS ADDITION BY PUBLICIZING IT ASAP. I TOLD HIM VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS MUST FIRST BE MADE BY USDA AND ANOTHER AMENDMENT TO THE EXISTING PL 480 AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE SIGNED. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WILL TAKE SEVERL DAYS TO COMPLETE. HE INDICATED UNDERSTANDING, BUT ASKED THAT THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS BE EXPEDITED AND THAT HE BE INFORMED WHEN HE MIGHT PUBLISH THE ANNOUNCEMENT. I AGREED TO CONVEY THIS TO YOU AND SAID I WOULD AGAIN BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE.
EILTS

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